DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Nazis are West Germany's "TOP PEOPLE"

The "Top People" in the West German state are people who aided, abetted or tolerated Hitler's crimes. This fact, abundantly documented, is now clear for the whole world to see.

Strong measures will have to be taken against the rowdies who smear swastikas and nazi slogans on West German walls; but the real guilty men are the leading figures in politics, the police, the courts, and big business who helped Hitler into power, maintained him in power and participated in all his crimes.

The storm of protest in all parts of the world forced West German Chancellor Adenauer to go on the air on January 16th with a declaration in which he condemned the swastika daubers: using the old and trusted argument of all anti-Semites he said, in almost so many words: "Some of my best friends are Jews", and went on to claim that the neo-nazi outbreaks were "teen-age nonsense without any political significance." He recommended that the best thing to do was for West German citizens to beat up any anti-Semites they might encounter.

Dr Adenauer will have his work cut out if he attempts himself to put his precepts into practice. Below we list just a minute portion of the "top people" in West Germany who have outstandingly bad anti-Semitic and fascist records. One of them is Adenauer's personal assistant.

Here Are Some of the Names —

I. West German Cabinet

Dr Hans Globke, State Secretary, Personal Assistant to Chancellor Adenauer

"Specialist for Jewish Affairs" in nazi Ministry of the Interior. No. 101 on United Nations War Crimes List. In 1935 he wrote, together with an SS General, the official legal commentary to the Nuremberg Laws, the nazi racial legislation, which stated on page 15: "It is thus made impossible for all time for Jews to mix with German folkdom, or to intervene in the political, economic and cultural life of the Reich. The German people wish to maintain their blood and culture pure . . . The Jews must get used to the idea that their influence on German life has been brought to an end, once and for all." *(Globke's Book: See p. 13)*

Theodor Oberlaender, Refugee Minister

Captain in the storm troops, Fuehrer of the nazi "League of Germans in the East". In a speech at Greifswald University in 1939 he stated: "The Jews are already leaving Memel. Today the new Storm Troop battalions will march through Memel." In an article published on April 1940 in "Deutsches Bauerntum" he stated: "The preservation of the purity of the race is only possible if the alien racial element leaves our area completely . . . People of alien blood cannot be allowed the honour of cultivating German soil." In June 1941 he commanded a Ukrainian Quisling unit which carried out pogroms in the Ukrainian city of Lvov.

Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior

Joined the Nazi Party in 1933 ("New York Times", January 17th 1954, quoting official nazi files.) Later joined Hitler's brown-shirted storm troops.

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Two other members of Adenauer's cabinet are known to have been members of the Nazi Party — Hermann Lindrath, Treasury Minister, and Hans Joachim von Merkatz, Minister for Upper House Affairs. Five other ministers served faithfully as officers in Hitler's Wehrmacht. Not a single member of the West German cabinet fought against Hitler.

(In the GDR, the cabinet is composed of men with clear anti-fascist records. Eight ministers spent long terms in nazi concentration camps, nine others were forced to emigrate, of whom four fought against fascism as officers of the International Brigades in Spain.)

(cont. on next page)

Some of the Names (continued)

II. West German Army

General Hans Speidel

Chief of staff of the nazi Wehrmacht in occupied Paris, chief of staff of the nazi 8th Army on the eastern front. Today commander of Nato ground forces in central Europe. On February 28th 1942 Speidel signed a report to Berlin from his office in occupied Paris stating: "The following retaliatory measures were ordered in the period under review: On February 3rd six Communists and Jews were shot in retaliation for various ambushes and bomb attacks in Paris. On February 14th 10 Communists and Jews were shot . . . On February 21st 25 Communists and Jews were shot . . . in connection with the measures outlined above, orders were given for the transfer to German detention of 1000 Communists and Jews . . . These have been made ready for deportation to the east."

Destructive?

"The example of the Federal Army, one of the main supports of our young state, shows what a destructive effect new denazification courts would have. Most of the soldiers who are today older than 40 certainly regarded Hitler for many years as a great Fuehrer."

"General Anzeiger", Bonn, January 9th 1960

General Adolf Heusinger

Chief of the Operational Department of Hitler's General Staff; he planned the invasions of Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and Yugoslavia. Today Inspector General of the West German Federal Army. He told the International War Crimes Tribunal at Nuremberg: "I believe that the treatment of the civil population in the area of operations . . . gave the top political and military leadership a welcome opportunity of carrying out their aim of systematically reducing the numbers of Slavs and Jews." Heusinger was himself a member of the "top military leadership." Addressing West German officers on September 27th 1958 he said: "Let us stick to the old principles, those principles we used to have."

Authoritarian

"Dr Adenauer does not share Hitler's doctrines. But throughout the last decade he has been re-creating the authoritarian climate in which they flourished. German democracy has degenerated into virtual one-party rule; and that party has become the servile instrument of a single will. Increasingly, Adenauer has staffed his government and his administration with men who flourished within the Nazi machine. The Goerings and Goebbels perished; the Krupps still flourish."

"New Statesman" – January 9th 1960

General Friedrich Foertsch

General Staff Chief of Hitler's 18th Army. Today Deputy Chief of Staff, Planning Department, NATO H. Q. After the war Foertsch was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for war crimes in the Soviet Union, and amnestied in 1955.

General Heinrich Hax

General Staff Chief of Hitler's 56th Army Corps. Today Major General in the West German Federal Army. After the war Hax was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for war crimes in the Soviet Union, and amnestied in 1955.

Every single general and admiral in the West German armed forces served as a high ranking officer in the nazi armed forces. Not a single officer of the West German forces fought against Hitler.

(In the GDR the armed forces are commanded by men who fought fascism in Spain, in the partisan movements in occupied Europe, and in the Free German Committee in the Soviet Union. Not a single senior officer held rank in Hitler's Wehrmacht.)

III. West German Courts

Judge Amedick, Director of Paderborn Provincial Court

Dr Amedick was judge in Dortmund Provincial Court under Hitler. In 1941 (File No. 10 KLS 3/41) he sentenced Ludwig Katz to eight years imprisonment for not telling his fiancée he was a Jew. In the sentence Amedick spoke of "the enormity of the accused's criminal behaviour . . . especially after the beginning of the present war which was unleashed by the Jews in order to destroy the German people."

Dr Kohlstadt, Judge in Coblenz District Court

Dr Kohlstadt was judge in the nazi Special Court in occupied Prague. On July 22nd 1943 he sentenced the Czech Jew Franz Thein to death for forging an identity card in order to escape deportation to the gas chambers. Kohlstadt's sentence stated that the forgery showed a "low and dishonourable character". A Czech who had helped Thein was also sentenced to death.

Dr Muhs, Senior Judge in Hamm Provincial Court

Dr Muhs was judge in the nazi Special Court in Radom, occupied Poland. On June 25th 1943 he sentenced the Pole Bazyli Antoniak to death for sheltering two Jewish children whom he had rescued from the Jewish ghetto. On April 4th 1944 he sentenced the Pole Wladyslav Tyczynski to death for sheltering a 12-year-old boy who had escaped from the liquidation of the Glinice ghetto.

Big Fry

"The furtive hooligans who now get so much attention are much less dangerous than the unrepentant Nazis who still hold high position. The removal, not of the small fry but of all those who were prominently associated with the Nazi regime, would administer the healthy shock now needed to drive back the hooligans into their holes."

"The Guardian", Manchester, January 6th 1960

At least 1000 judges and public prosecutors now working in West Germany held posts in the nazi Ministry of Justice, in the nazi "People's Courts" and "Special Courts" and in the Wehrmacht military courts. They handed down many thousands of death sentences to opponents of the nazi regime in Germany and occupied Europe. Full documentary evidence of their crimes is available in the nazi files held in East Berlin.

(In the German Democratic Republic the judicial system was thoroughly purged after 1945: none of the old nazi judges or prosecutors hold office today.)

Too Late?

"The root of the evil is not so much the unreconstructed nazis as the restoration which West Germany has experienced under the three governments of Adenauer. If the working class movement does not take up the fight today against all forms of fascism, it might once again be too late."

"Junge Gemeinschaft", organ of the Social Democratic Youth Movement, January 1960

IV. West German Police

Fritz Weber

SS Major in the nazi Reich Security H. Q., central office responsible for the concentration camps and the liquidation of six million Jews. Today Chief Police Director in the Interior Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia Province.

Karl Kiehne

Organised nazi cell in the police in 1932, before Hitler came to power. Later SS Major in nazi Reich Security H. Q. Today head of detective police in Cologne, where the present wave of anti-Semitism started on December 24th 1959.

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The detective police in all the main cities of North Rhine-Westphalia, West Germany's most populous province, are commanded by former SS officers. In most other West German provinces a high proportion of key police posts are held by former SS and Gestapo officers.

(In the GDR the police force was completely rebuilt after 1945. No former nazis or SS officers command police units; most key posts are held by concentration camp survivors, veterans of the International Brigade, and veterans of the working class movement.)

V. West German Big Business

Hermann Josef Abs, leading banker-politican, head of Deutsche Bank

On the Allied War Criminal List, Abs was sentenced in absentia by a Yugoslav court to 15 years forced labour for war crimes. According to the Office of Military Government of the US (Report of November 1946). "Abs was the guiding spirit of the vicious Deutsche Bank, which combined an unusual concentration of economic power with active participation in the criminal policies of the nazi regime . . . Hermann Abs' Deutsche Bank played the part of a leading institution of the German government and served in the economic infiltration of the satellite states and the occupied countries of Europe . . . Abs repaid the advantages which he and his bank enjoyed by taking an active part in the different organisations and ecopomic committees formed by the nazis . . ." (retranslated from German).

Abs, still ruler of the Deutsche Bank, largest financial organisation in West Germany, is also chairman or member of the board of directors in at least 30 important companies in West Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Luxembourg and the USA. His bank controls the two largest West German film companies, and he represents West Germany at important financial negotiations in Washington, London and Madrid.

Unthinkable

"The suggestion that ex-Nazis should be weeded out of public life . . . is scouted in Bonn . . . The first two heads to fall into the basket would be those of the Minister for Refugees, Professor Oberlaender, and the Minister of the Interior, Dr Schroeder. Just how unthinkable this sort of action would be to the Federal Government may be suggested by the fact that Dr Schroeder has rosy prospects of being Dr Adenauer's successor . . . The weeding out of former Nazis would almost denude some Federal Ministries of their senior civil servants. The Federal Foreign Office would be deprived of some of its acknowledged experts. The foreign and consular services would suffer severely; so would the police force, the legal and teaching professions, and local government."

"The Guardian", Manchester, January 1st 1960

Alfried Krupp, steel manufacturer

War criminal and member of the Nazi Party, he was allowed to collect Jews from Auschwitz for his factories. On December 12th 1945 at the Nuremberg Trials (Doc. D-288, US-202), Dr Wilhelm Jaeger reported that "the Italians were removed and 600 Jewish women were brought there in their place to work in the Krupp factories . . . The women had no shoes . . . Their only clothing was a sack in which holes for arms and head had been cut. Their hair had been cut off . . . The buildings in which they lived were the ruins of barracks and offered no protection from wind and weather . . . After I had left the camp I had large boils on my arms and my whole body . . ."

Disappeared

"Dr Adenauer said . . . Nazi ideas had, for all practical purposes, disappeared."

Sir Anthony Eden's Memoirs, "The Times" January 14th 1960

Today, "together with the fabrication factories, Krupp will have 120.000 employees and a yearly turnover of more than 4.000 000.000 marks, once again leading all West German enterprises." (UPI, January 10th 1959)

Friedrich Flick, leading industrialist

At Nuremberg, Flick was found guilty of "spoliation and plunder of occupied territories", "contributing funds and influence" to the SS, "enslavement of concentration camp inmates" and other crimes.

He was one of Hitler's "military economic leaders", he grabbed factories all over Occupied Europe and took over "Aryanised" Jewish property.

Despite his five years of prison, Flick "has rocketed back to become Germany's No. 2 industrialist (after Alfried Krupp)", according to "Time" Magazine on September 7th 1959.

Robert Pferdmenges, banker, industrialist, politician

Another nazi "military economic leader", Pferdmenges contributed at least 389.000 marks to the National Socialist Party, he was able to gain control of an "Aryanised" Jewish bank and made a net profit of at least 1 million marks in each year of the war. He was on the official list of war criminals, but with the help of Konrad Adenauer and his party, he was able to get himself partly "denazified". He has been a member of the West German Parliament since 1949 and is a member of several committees dealing with finance. He is a close friend and main financial adviser to Konrad Adenauer.

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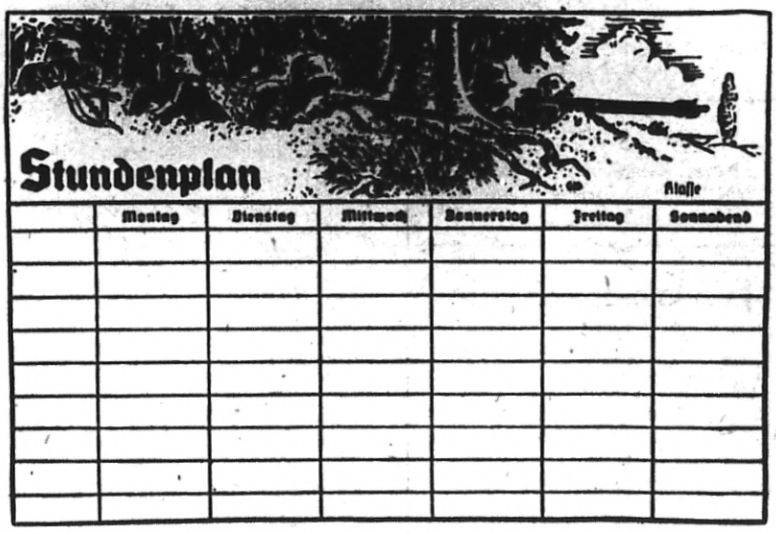
The companies, families and men who financed Hitler, sucked occupied Europe dry, helped the SS wipe out 6 million Jews and used tens of thousands of slave labourers till they dropped, are almost all back again — Thyssen, Mannesmann, Hoesch. Haniel, Kloeckner and, under several pseudonyms, I. G. Farben.

(In the GDR there are neither trusts, cartels, monopolies nor huge private banks. The public owns the factories and banks which were expropriated from nazis and war criminals immediately after the war.)

Nazis in West German Schools

The strength of nazi influence in West German education circles was described in this article by Thomas Gnielka in the West German "Frankfurter Rundschau" on January 9th.

"... Teachers belonging to the German Reich Party teach lessons in civics; a man who served a prison sentence for shooting two anti-fascists is employed as a school teacher; most schoolchildren are taught nothing about the recent political past; teachers refuse to teach the truth about the Weimar Republic and the nazi regime because, as a spokesman of the Ministry of Culture in Hesse said, they follow the principle; 'Do nothing in the Fourth Reich which could hurt you in the Fifth Reich'. Last but not least, right-wing extremist organisations are able, uncontrolled and undisturbed, to infect young people with neo-nazi ideas at 'social evenings' and to 'get them used to discipline with first-rate military games'. Legal proceedings are only taken against them when they are stupid enough to create a public disturbance with anti-Semitic, nazi scribblings. What has to happen in the Federal Republic before something is done?



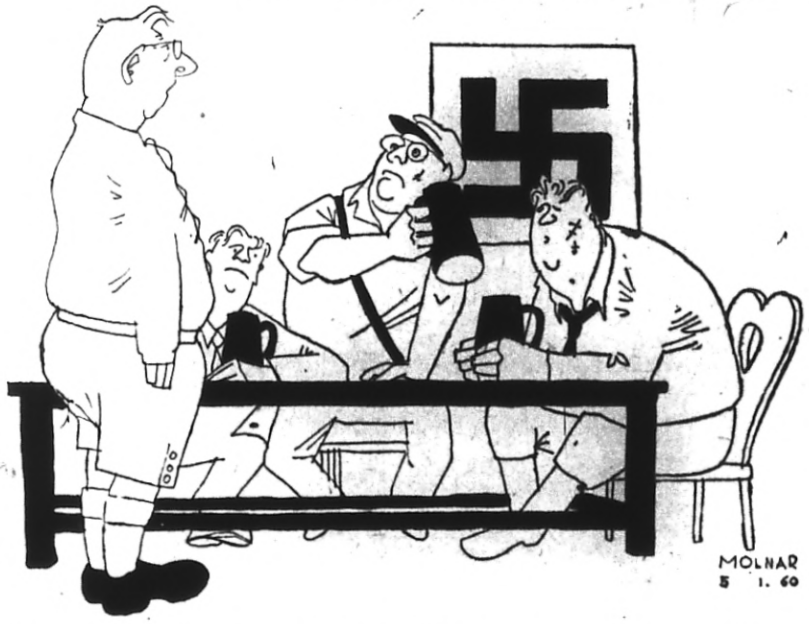
School time-table widely used in West Germany

"Recently some responsible men have tried individually to oppose this development. But usually they must struggle against difficulties of a legal nature which largely neutralise any measures they take. The Minister of Education in Hesse ruled just before the summer holidays that the upper grades of the secondary schools should begin immediately with the study of the recent past in Germany. This policy was to be carried out even if ancient history could not be treated so fully. Up to the present, the Education Ministry of Hesse has no reports that this decision is not being followed. This only means that it is practically impossible to check up in the schools how far such a decision is being implemented.

"About 30% of all teachers now giving lessons in West Germany ... served as teachers during the nazi regime. Those not guilty of any particular crimes were reinstated after the war. Only some of them had learnt from the past, only some have the courage today to teach in the spirit of our new state. There are undoubtedly many, many more who skip over the years of the 'Third Reich' and the Weimar Republic in silence or utter a few generalities in order not to show any opinions or to betray their true feelings.

"Some do not, in their teachings, conceal their rejection of present conditions and their approval of past events. Reports about statements by such teachers only come to public attention when stout-hearted pupils have the courage to oppose teachings of this sort. But to oppose such teachings the pupils need to know the facts. And how can the pupils of such teachers as these ever get to know the facts? Their parents 'have no time' and are either politically indifferent or already prejudiced."

From 'TOP PEOPLE' To 'BOTTOM PEOPLE'



"Troopers ready. Banners ready. Slogans ready. Just one thing: Where do we get the Jews from?" *("Sydney Morning Herald")*

GLOBKE'S BOOK

On the right is the title page of a book published in 1936 in nazi Germany. It contained the "Nuremberg Laws" which were used by the nazis to stamp the Jews of Germany as second-class citizens, hound them from public life and finally send them to the gas-chambers.

The book also contained a legal commentary on these laws, explaining just how they were to be used in practice. The title page bears the names of the two men who wrote this commentary: SS Major General Dr Wilhelm Stuckart, who served a post-war sentence as a war criminal, and Dr Hans Globke, today State Secretary in Bonn and right hand man to Konrad Adenauer.

Here are literal translations from the Globke-Stuckart commentary to the "Nuremberg Laws":

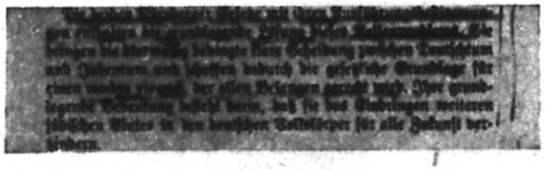
* * *

"What have race, people and state to do with each other, what is race, what is people? It is necessary to clarify these definitions, since the opponents of the racial idea are attempting to confuse the thoughts of the German people in order to prevent the victory of the racial idea . . . Racialist teachings show us that a certain attitude, a certain character, a certain creative ability are linked with certain physical characteristics". (p. 1)

"The mixing of races alien to each other destroys the unity and integrity of soul of the nation . . . it produces a mixed race torn by internal dissension . . . 'In many cases in which the race can hold out, the hybrid collapses' ('Mein Kampf', p. 442) . . . National Socialism means a decisive turning away from the liberalistic principle of the equality of all . . ." (p. 3)

"The basis of the German nation is provided by the Nordic race . . . The dominant Nordic race has given the German people its specific stamp." (p. 7)

"Since the Jewish people are, both in their blood and their inner character, of a completely different type from the German people, tension between the two is the necessary result of the fact that Jews live scattered throughout the German Reich."

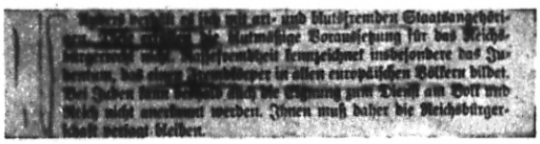


(translation)

"The two Nuremberg Laws, together with the regulations based upon them, contain the basic solution for this racial problem. They bring about a clear distinction between Germanness and Jewishness, based on blood, and thus provide the legal basis for a modus vivendi for all needs. Their basic importance consists in the fact that they prevent, for all time, the penetration of further Jewish blood into the German folk-body." (p. 15)

Reichsbürgergeſetz
vom 15. September 1935
Geſetz zum Schutze des deutſchen Blutes und der deutſchen Ehre
vom 15. September 1935
Geſetz zum Schutze der Erbgeſundheit des deutſchen Volkes (Ehegeſundheitsgeſetz)
vom 18. Oktober 1935
nebſt allen Ausführungsvorſchriften und den einſchlägigen Geſetzen und Verordnungen
erläutert von
Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart und Dr. Hans Globke
C. H. Beck'ſche Verlagsbuchhandlung
München und Berlin 1936

(Dr Globke then devotes many paragraphs to exact definitions of quarter Jews, half Jews, three-quarter Jews, and so on. He gives many pages to the definition of the difference between "Reich Citizens" who may only be Aryans, and "Nationals of the State", which means Jews living in Germany as second-class persons.)



(translation)

"The position is different with nationals of the state who are alien by type or blood. These people do not fulfil the blood-conditions for the right to be Reich Citizens. Alien race is a mark particularly of the Jews, who form an alien body in all European nations. The right to service for the folk and the Reich cannot be recognised in the case of Jews. They must therefore be refused recognition as Reich Citizens." (p. 28)

(After this 30-page introduction, which is richly sprinkled with quotations from Hitler and other racialist authorities, the book gives the full text of the Nuremberg Laws, followed by 200 pages of detailed interpretation of each single clause of these laws.)

Appeal to Big Four

"Potsdam Agreement Must be Implemented"

Leading men and women from all walks of life in Democratic Germany have appealed to the people of Germany and the world to stop the revival of German fascism before it is too late.

On January 11th party and trade union leaders, scientists, writers and artists met in East Berlin to sign an appeal to the German people, and a memorandum to the great powers which is reprinted below.

The memorandum was signed by such noted figures as writers Arnold Zweig and Stefan Heym; Helene Weigel, actress widow of Bertolt Brecht; representatives of the Jewish communities in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Erfurt; Christian churchmen of many denominations; and leading representatives of all political parties and organisations.

Here is the text of the memorandum addressed to the Governments of Britain, France, USA and the Soviet Union:

The undersigned — personalities of public life in the German Democratic Republic — on the basis of their humanitarian principles, and in view of the renewed open outbreak of the evil spirit of anti-Semitism, nationalism and militarism in the German Federal Republic, wish to draw the attention of the governments of the USSR, the USA, the United Kingdom and France to Section A of the Potsdam Agreement of August 2nd 1945 dealing with "Political Principles". These principles have also been repeatedly recognised by the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the great majority of the German people as correct, just and necessary for the extermination of militarism and nazism in Germany and in order to restore the honour and dignity of the German people.

The "Political Principles" of the Potsdam Agreement, which are binding under international law, state in Paragraph 3 (i) a, which deals with the disbanding of the armed forces:

"To these ends, all ... military and quasi-military organisations, together with all clubs and associations which serve to keep alive the military traditions in Germany, shall be completely and finally abolished in such manner as permanently to prevent the revival or reorganisation of German militarism and Nazism."

The same paragraph includes under (iii) a statement on the banning of the National Socialist Party and its subsidiaries:

"... to ensure that they are not revived in any form; and to prevent all Nazi and militarist activity or propaganda."

We find that these principles have been put in practice in the GDR, but that in the German Federal Republic, despite these clear statements,

a) the ban on the National Socialist Party and its subsidiaries has been withdrawn;

b) the SS, which was branded as a criminal organisation by an international tribunal, is organising its supporters under the camouflage of an organisation (HIAG) which is officially recognised as a mutual-aid body;

numerous SS leaders today hold leading posts in the police;

under their protection, public meetings celebrating past traditions are held by the German SS Associations and their European branch organisations;

c) political parties and other organisations are able to make the revival of the traditions of the National Socialist Party, the Hitler Youth and other national socialist organisations the main feature of their programmes and their political activities;

d) more than 1000 military and quasi-military organisations aim at a revival of the traditions of the nazi Wehrmacht and of chauvinism and revanchism;

e) the same groups, especially in West German business circles, which gave financial and other support to the Hitler movement are now supporting and financing these parties, groups and organisations;

f) Cabinet Ministers of the Federal Government take part in these organisations and the Government gives them political and financial aid.

In connection with these facts we wish to call attention to Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 in the section of the Potsdam Agreement dealing with "Political Principles":

Paragraph 6: "All members of the Nazi party who have been more than nominal participants in its activities, and all other persons hostile to allied purposes shall be removed from public and semi-public office and from positions of responsibility in important private undertakings. Such persons shall be replaced by persons who, by their political and moral qualities, are deemed capable of assisting in developing genuine democratic institutions in Germany."

Paragraph 7: "German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate Nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas."

Paragraph 8: "The judicial system will be reorganised in accordance with the principles of democracy, of justice under law, and of equal rights for all citizens without distinction of race, nationality, or religion."

We find that these principles have been put into practice in the GDR, but that in the German Federal Republic, despite these clear statements

a) numerous active and leading members of the National Socialist Party and its subsidiaries as well as numerous fanatical enemies of the principles of the Anti-Hitler Coalition hold leading positions in the Federal Government, in numerous provincial

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governments, in administration and in the leadership of decisively important economic enterprises and that in broad fields of political, economic and cultural life it is of advantage to have been a National Socialist and a disadvantage to have been an opponent of National Socialism;

b) in the field of education National Socialists and militarists play a decisive part and that the crimes of National Socialism are either concealed, denied or glossed over in school lessons;

c) in the judicial system, in leading positions, there are more than 1000 judges who under Hitler distorted the law and who sent thousands of innocent people from Germany and nearly all other countries of Europe to the scaffold, people who had fought for the great principles of the Anti-Hitler Coalition; these judges today rule that many laws and verdicts of the Hitler Reich are still valid and legally binding.

Finally, we draw attention to Section A, Paragraph 9 (ii) of the Potsdam Agreement, which states that "all democratic political parties ... shall be allowed and encouraged throughout Germany".

We must point out in this connection that in the Federal Republic, on the application of a Minister in the Federal Cabinet who was a member of the SA (Storm Troopers), the judicial system mentioned above has taken the following steps:

a) the Communist Party of Germany and more than one hundred anti-fascist, democratic organisations and groups have been banned;

b) legal proceedings to ban the Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime (VVN) are pending;

c) a trial against the peace movement in West Germany is nearing conclusion in a West German court.

The main causes of the revival of the nazi menace in West Germany must be sought for in these violations of all the main "Political Principles" of the Potsdam Agreement. It is becoming clear that the unhindered, officially promoted propaganda and recruiting of the fascist and militarist organisations, the rearmament under the leadership of the old Hitler generals, and especially the atomic weapons they have now been granted — all this not only represents growing danger to the Federal Republic and to Germany as a whole, but also endangers the security of the countries which signed the Potsdam Agreement and their populations and threatens to plunge us all into the chaos and untold destruction of a Third World War.

We propose that these facts be made a subject for negotiation at the summit conference, with the participation of both German governments.

In the name of a great majority of the German people we demand that the "Political Principles" of the Potsdam Agreement quoted above — whose present importance and necessity have again been proved so important by the recent events in West Germany — be made a basic part of the peace treaty to be signed with the two German states.

Ambassadors

Most of West Germany's Ambassadors served in Hitler's diplomatic service. Here is an incomplete list of men who served Ribbentrop and Hitler and represent West Germany today:

Argentina: Dr Werner Junker, Nazi Party member
Brazil: Dr Gebhardt von Walther
Britain: Dr Hans Herwarth von Bittenfeld
Canada: Herbert Siegfried
Colombia: Anton Mohrmann
Costa Rica: Dr Georg Korth
Ethiopia: Dr Hans Bidder, Nazi Party member
France: Herbert Blankenhorn, Nazi Party member, storm trooper
India: Dr Wilhelm Melcher, Nazi Party member
Italy: Dr Manfred Klaiber, Nazi Party member
Japan: Dr Wilhelm Haas
Mexico: Dr. Walter Hess, on Greek War Criminal list
Saudi Arabia: Baron von Richthofen, storm troop officer
Spain: Wolfgang Baron von Welck
Sweden: Hans-Ulrich von Marchtaler
Switzerland: Dr Ernst Guenther Mohr
Tunisia: Dr. Werner Gregor, expelled from Britain as nazi spy
United Arab Republic: Dr Walter Becker, SS Colonel
Vatican: Dr Rudolf Count von Strackwitz
Venezuela: Dr Gerhardt Weiz

NEWS ITEMS FROM GDR

East Berlin Demonstration

More than 150,000 Berliners marched through the snow in East Berlin on January 17th to honour the memory of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, founders of the German Communist Party, who were murdered in January 1919 by reactionary officers.

Addressing the demonstration Hermann Matern, Communist veteran, pointed out that the same forces which murdered Liebknecht and Luxemburg were today behind the neo-nazi excesses in West Germany. "The people who murdered Karl and Rosa, who killed Thaelmann (Communist leader) and Breitscheid (Social Democratic leader), who butchered millions of Jews are back in action again in West Germany and West Berlin" he said. Only our workers' and peasants' state, the German Democratic Republic, has restored the good name of Germany in the world."

Birthday Bell for Albert Schweitzer

A bell weighing 550 lbs was sent, as an 85th birthday present, to Dr Albert Schweitzer, Lambarene, Equatorial Africa, by workers of a foundry in Democratic Germany. The workers had decided to send the bell, inscribed "For Peace on Earth", after hearing about the efforts of the philosopher, musicologist and "jungle doctor" towards banning nuclear weapon tests.

Birthday greetings also reached Dr Schweitzer from Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl and many organisations and government institutions of the GDR.

Socialist Letters Cost Less

Postage rates for letters and postcards from Democratic Germany to all other countries in the socialist world were cut on January 1st to the inland rate. Letters now cost exactly the same whether addressed to Vladivostok, Canton or Pyongyang or to the nearest town 15 miles away.

The reduction was one of a series of improvements in communications agreed on by the Post Ministers of the socialist countries at a conference held in June 1959.

Co-op Farms Multiply

More than 45% of all arable land in Democratic Germany is now cultivated by cooperative farms. The number of farmers who have pooled their land and now work together went up from 353,000 at the end of 1958 to the current figure of 448,000. In one district, Eilenburg (near Leipzig), every single farmer had joined a cooperative farm by the end of 1959.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT will not have been surprised by the recent evidence of neo-nazi activity in West Germany: most of the "sensational revelations" about nazis in high places printed in recent weeks in the mass-circulation newspapers all over the world were made months or years ago in these pages.

The very first issue of GERMAN REPORT, dated January 18th 1952, stated in an editorial:

"Seven years ago at this season, American, British and Russian citizens, together with men from a dozen other nations, were fighting their way across the frontiers of Germany to end the reign of aggressive and brutal nazism which had brought death and destruction to half the world ... Only six and a half years later militarism and nazism are firmly back in saddle again in one part of Germany, war criminals have been released and granted fat pensions, armaments monopolists like Krupp have regained power, and the open formation of a new Wehrmacht, commanded by Hitler's old generals and ready to threaten the peace of the world again, is just round the corner."

In recent weeks newspapers in Britain, the USA and elsewhere have been exclaiming in horror over the discovery that members of Chancellor Adenauer's cabinet are old nazis. GERMAN REPORT printed full biographical notes on the nazi past of Gerhard Schroeder, Theodor Oberlaender, and Hans Globke on October 30th 1953.

The relevations now being printed all over the world are a little late: but better late than never.

Revealing Story

A friend of mine who works in Bonn, the West German capital, has told me a story which throws an interesting light on the way the minds of high West German officials work. He was talking recently to a leading official who has been under fire as a former Nazi Party member, and asked about the truth of the charges. "Yes, it is quite true I was a member of the Nazi Party" said the official. "I felt that by joining the party I could protect my wife, one of whose grandparents was Jewish." My friend asked him why he did not publicise this fact, which would give him some sort of alibi. "But then my children would discover that they have Jewish blood in their veins" said the official.

The report of this conversation reminded me immediately of a rather similar conversation I had in 1947. As correspondent of Reuters I had been attending the trial in Warsaw of Rudolf Hoess, commandant of Auschwitz extermination camp, and immediately after he had been sentenced to death, I buttonholed the state prosecutor and asked whether I could speak to Hoess. Rather to my surprise he led me to a small cell at the back of the court where Hoess was waiting to be taken to Auschwitz, where he was hanged on the scene of his crimes a few days later, and I found myself shut in the cell with this man who was probably the greatest mass murderer in history.

Hoess, who would probably be drawing a pension in West Germany today if he had not been hanged by the Poles, told me that he fully admitted his guilt for the Auschwitz gassings, though he claimed that he had only gassed one-and-a-half million, instead of the four million claimed by some witnesses. "But I cannot feel really sorry about it" he said, "because at the time I comitted the acts I was thoroughly convinced I was doing the right thing."

I asked Hoess what he would have done if he had been ordered to send his own wife and children to the gas chamber. Without hesitation he replied: "If I had been ordered to gas and burn my wife and my five children, I would have done it, of course. In this case I should probably have followed them by committing suicide."

I asked him why he had not followed Hitler's example and killed himself when the nazi empire crumbled. Hoess, who had cheerfully gassed tens of thousands of Jewish, Polish and Russian children said: "I and my wife considered this, but we decided we could not leave such a mark of shame on our children."

Sentences

On another page of this issue we give just one or two examples of the sort of sentence passed by judges in Hitler's "Special Courts", judges who are today back on the bench in West Germany. Hundreds of these old "Special Court" judges are today administering what is known in West Germany as justice, and there has been some attempt made recently in West German newspapers to claim that the Special Courts were not really so bad: they were just tribunals which had to deal with ration-card offences, and things of that sort, say the apologists.

To counter this argument, here is the text of an official decree issued in Warsaw on October 15th 1941 by Hans Frank, Governor General of nazi-occupied Poland:

"... Jews who leave their ordained place of residence without permit will be sentenced to death. The same penalty will be applied to persons who knowingly harbour such Jews ... These cases will be dealt with by the Special Courts."

Is it Any Good?

Does it do any good to drag up these old and frightful cases from the nazi files? The answer, at least in the case of the nazi judges, seems definitely to be "yes". The pressure of world public opinion on the West German authorities about the re-employment of nazi judges has been so massive, that at long last something is being done. Dr Max Guede, West German Attorney General, in an interview published on January 12th in "Der Spiegel", West German news magazine, admitted for the first time that the documents published over the past two years by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin are genuine, and that he is shocked by the evidence. "I have seen photostats of sentences which appear to me to be genuine sentences, sentences which shocked me."

Guede announced that a number of the cases exposed by the Committee for German Unity were now being examined. Several judges and prosecutors have already been pensioned off. So questions in the British House of Commons, and protests to the West German embassies can produce results.

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Readers who would like to have more details about the nazi judges back on the bench in West Germany can find them, together with photostats of some of the original nazi documents, in the book "We Accuse", published a few months ago by the Committee for German Unity. We still have a few free copies in English which we shall send to applicants as long as supplies last.

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